

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28, 49 and 50 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 49 and 50 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-28, 49 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Stern, which is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a display device including a light transmitting member, a light source that irradiates the light transmitting member with light, and a control mechanism configured to switch between total reflection and transmission a behavior of the light, incident into the light transmitting member from the light source, at an interface between the light transmitting member and an external region adjacent to the light transmitting member. Further, the display device is configured to cause at least a portion of the light emitted by the light source and irradiating the light transmitting member to be output as a light component having directivity from the light transmitting member onto a scattering surface without being scattered. Further, the scattering surface is spaced apart from the light transmitting member and the control mechanism, and the light component is used to display images. Independent Claims 8, 15, 22, 49 and 50 include similar features.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 1 illustrates a display device 1 having a light transmitting member 2, a light source 3 and a control mechanism 4. Further, as shown, the display device 1 is configured to cause at least a portion of the light emitted by the light source 3 and irradiating the light transmitting member 2 to be output as a light component having directivity from the light transmitting member 2 onto a scattering surface 5 without being scattered. Further, the scattering surface 5 is spaced apart from the light transmitting member 2 and the control mechanism 4.

The amendments to the independent claims are supported by the drawings (e.g., Figure 1) and by the specification at least at page 11, line 22 to page 12, line 2 and page 14, lines 11-13.

The outstanding Office Action indicates at page 3, lines 10 and 11, that “Stern’s invention does include a structure in which a light component having directivity can be output from a light tap.” However, Applicant notes the optical coupling switch according to Stern is provided with “scattering means configured to enable coupled light to penetrate the light tap, for scattering light that is coupled into the light tap” (see the last paragraph in Claim 1, for example). In addition, as shown in Figures 3A-3C, 4A-4E, 5, 18G and 19, the scattering means 32 is provided on the light taps 28 and 312. Stern does not teach or suggest that the scattering means 32 is spaced apart from the light tap 28. That is, Stern does not teach or suggest the claimed invention in which a light component having directivity is output onto a scattering surface without being scattered and in which the scattering surface is spaced apart from the light transmitting member and the control mechanism.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent Claims 1, 15, 22, 49 and 50 and each of the claims depending therefrom are allowable.

Application No: 09/536,024
Reply to Office Action of March 12, 2003

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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